

### **Pius XII on the missions**

An encyclical of cheer and challenge (dated June 2, the Pope's name day) has been issued to the Catholic world by Pius XII. It is called *Evangelii Praecones* (Heralds of the Gospel) and lays down norms for ever-increasing missionary efforts. The cheer lies in the statistics. In twenty-five years, mission districts throughout the world have grown from 400 to 600, the number of native and foreign priests from 14,800 to 26,800, the faithful from 14.5 to 28 million. Twenty-five years ago all mission bishops were foreigners; today 88 missions have native bishops. But the very growth implies a challenge, especially in these times when

Communist propaganda . . . is readily deceiving the minds of the simple and the untutored . . . and pernicious doctrines . . . represent the enjoyment of this world as the unique goal to be attained by men in this mortal life.

The challenge can be met, the Pope says, through the heroism and devotion of the missionaries and the introduction of the true social reforms the Church everywhere advocates. It can be met through the continuing development of the native clergy and a spirit of supra-nationalism under which "the Church does not wish to eradicate any good tradition, artistic production or custom of any people. Its mission is to preserve, elevate and sanctify these things in the spirit of the Gospel." As if timed to underline communism's hatred of the missionary challenge, the Chinese Reds on June 6 closed down the Catholic Central Bureau in Shanghai. This was the key organization for the coordination of all Catholic missionary work in China. One main charge is that missionaries block Red efforts to establish an "independent" Catholic church. To date, not one Chinese priest is known to have lent his name to rabid Red nationalism.

### **Dope plague in New York**

The public hearings in the New York State inquiry into narcotics traffic and addiction, held in Manhattan on June 12-15, revealed conditions even more shocking than those we alluded to several months ago ("It isn't only basketball," AM. 3/10, p. 663). In many respects the revelations, though not televised, should cause more public concern than those of the Kefauver hearings, *with which they are connected*. The inquiry centered on dope-addiction among teen-agers. Nobody knows how widespread it is. At least 5,000 boys and girls, aged 16-18, are enslaved. That is one out of every fifty students in New York's public high schools, though not all the addicts are attending school. In a Manhattan junior high school, for example, students sniffed heroin in the back of the room while the teacher was lecturing. One pupil confessed to selling \$300 worth of dope daily around his school. (Among adults, addiction is very common among a certain type of musician. It is spreading among nurses and physicians, too.) How does a teen-ager take to dope? Someone gives a boy or girl a "free taste" of a "reefer" (marijuana cigarette), and then starts charging 50 to 75 cents apiece. The

## **CURRENT COMMENT**

same process is followed with heroin, the "terror drug," a derivative of opium. "Sniffing" of heroin quickly leads to the use of hypodermic injections (called "banging"). A capsule of heroin costs \$1-\$2. Cocaine sells for \$5 a capsule. Addicts can buy the stuff in dance halls, restaurants, barber shops, hotels, drug stores, candy stores, groceries and even around schools. The results are appalling: the more dope a youngster takes, the more he needs—from \$5 to \$10 worth a day. To get the money addicts resort to stealing, burglary, prostitution. Mental, moral and physical degradation follows. Sudden withdrawal of drugs causes acute illness.

### **. . . and no simple solution**

The plague has reached menacing proportions partly because public officials ignored early warnings. Five years ago a group of physicians tried to alert City Hall that teen-age dope would become the city's scourge. Former Mayor O'Dwyer, it is reported, would not even meet them. Significantly, the rise in dope-peddling ("pushing"), especially among the young, has taken place since 1946, the year Governor Dewey released Charles ("Lucky") Luciano from Sing Sing. The Federal Government thereupon deported him. From Italy, according to many officials, he has since poured dope into the United States. 1) Neither the New York police nor the U. S. Bureau of Narcotics is adequately staffed to cope with the traffic. N. Y. Police Commissioner Murphy last December increased his narcotics squad from 27 to 41 detectives, plus 8 clerks. Since then arrests have gone up 50 per cent. The squad, he thinks, needs a total of 100. 2) Both Federal and State legislation needs stiffening. Only selling, not the mere possession, of dope is now illegal. Penalties should be sharpened. 3) Public-school authorities could be more vigilant. They seem to have taken dope-peddling and addiction around schools far too casually. 4) Parents, who have been extremely remiss, should watch over the habits and companionship of their children. 5) Civic groups should tackle the problem, as the American Legion promises to do. 6) Like other cities, New York needs hospitals for dope addicts, especially places where teen-agers will not be thrown in with corrupt characters. Cures require four months of supervised care. More basically, the whole web of city life needs reweaving into a more wholesome pattern. Children without any moral and religious training are left completely

adrift, hungry for any new "thrill" debauched evildoers can offer them . . . An Illinois legislative committee on June 20 said Chicago had 25,000 young addicts . . . The AFL the same day demanded the death penalty for dope distributors. The public is aroused, but should avoid simple "solutions."

### **The Kem amendment**

The so-called Kem amendment to the deficiency appropriations bill, which laudably aims at cutting down trade in strategic items with Soviet Russia and its satellites, is a thoroughly bungled and mischievous piece of legislation, despite its high purpose. Every patriotic American subscribes to the simple proposition that all trade with the Iron Curtain countries which would in any way strengthen their military potential should be cut off. The difficulty is that the wisdom and morality of trading with the Soviet bloc, while a simple proposition for the United States, is not a simple proposition for the rest of the free world. Attached to an appropriation bill signed under protest by the President on June 2, the amendment sponsored by the senior Senator from Missouri would oblige all countries receiving American economic aid to stop shipping to the Soviet bloc any of the 1,700 items which have long since been embargoed by Washington for U. S. business. Penalty for non-compliance by June 18 was suspension of all American economic aid. Fortunately, the law contains a clause which permits the National Security Council to suspend the operation of the amendment for ninety days, if the interest of the United States so dictates. That was the lifeline which the Council grasped on June 15. If the Council had not acted, and in acting braved the wrath of the likes of Senators Kem, Cain and Wherry, only Yugoslavia would today be eligible for an Export-Import Bank loan, or a grant from ECA. Sixty-six nations, practically all the free world, would be on our black list. As Arthur Schlesinger Jr. wrote in the *New York Post* on June 17, such a disruption of our foreign-aid program would have done the Soviet job superbly.

### **. . . a fresh approach**

The ninety-day suspension of the Kem amendment gives Congress a chance to reconsider its hasty and ill-considered action. It should note, first of all, that our Atlantic Pact allies have already restricted shipments on ninety per cent of the items on our forbidden

list. It should appreciate that the Administration has been negotiating, and is continuing to negotiate, with our friends for still further curbs on their trade with the Soviet bloc. Most of all, it should remember that trade is a two-way street, and that if Soviet Russia has somewhat benefited from East-West trade, so have our allies. For one thing, the success of the Marshall Plan was partly contingent on the re-establishment of pre-war trade patterns in Europe. Without the ten million tons of coal which Poland exported last year to the West, the free world would not be so strong as it is today. Admittedly, if munitions were being shipped to the East, or machinery and raw materials essential to war production, no conceivable gain for the West would justify their export. Only dribbles of such goods, it appears, are now flowing to Russia, at least through legal channels. Until our friends give evidence that they are unwilling to restrict shipments of the goods now in dispute (comprising only ten per cent of the total trade), we ought to pursue our goal by the democratic process of negotiation. If we use the big stick recommended by Senator Kem, the blow will hurt us as much as it hurts our enemies.

### **So ends the Marshall Plan**

For all practical purposes, historians can begin writing the story of the Marshall Plan right now. Although President Truman has asked Congress to appropriate \$1.2 billion for economic aid to Western Europe during the coming fiscal year, only \$400 million of this will be used for strictly Marshall Plan purposes. The rest will go to help Atlantic Pact nations switch from civilian to defense production. As originally conceived, the Marshall Plan was to have been a four-year effort running to June 30, 1952 and costing approximately \$17 billion. Actually, except for Western Germany, Austria and Greece, where occupation problems and civil war retarded recovery, the Marshall Plan is now over. When the bills have all been paid, the total cost will not exceed \$12 billion. How well the program has succeeded can be seen from the annual report of the hard-boiled, authoritative Bank of International Settlements at Basle, Switzerland. On June 11 the bank announced that, as of March 31, industrial output in Europe had jumped an average of thirty per cent over prewar levels, and that in Belgium, France and Italy the rise was above the average. Though this remarkable recovery is only partly attributable to Marshall Plan aid, which amounted to no more than three and one-half per cent of the national incomes of the participating countries, it could not have been achieved without ERP. Thus ends the boldest, most imaginative and most generous foreign-aid program ever undertaken. If it did not build a brand new world in which prosperity is spread more equitably among the masses and trade flows freely across national frontiers, at least it saved Western Europe and gave us sturdy allies for whatever crisis lies ahead. Taxpayers can feel satisfied that the Marshall Plan dealt the Kremlin its worst defeat since World War II.

**AMERICA** — National Catholic Weekly Review — Edited and published by the following Jesuit Fathers of the United States:

**Editor-in-Chief:** ROBERT C. HARTNETT

**Managing Editor:** CHARLES KEENAN

**Literary Editor:** HAROLD C. GARDINER

**Associate Editors:** JOHN LAFARGE, BENJAMIN L. MASSE, EDWARD A. CONWAY, DANIEL FOGARTY, VINCENT S. KEARNEY  
**Contributing Editors:** WILFRID PARSONS, ROBERT A. GRAHAM, ALLAN P. FARRELL

**Editorial Office:** 329 W. 108TH STREET, NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

**Business Office:** 70 EAST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

**Business Manager and Treasurer:** JOSEPH C. MULHEARN

**Advertising Manager:** MISS JANE VLYMEN

## WEDEMEYER VERSUS McCARTHY

When Lieut. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer stepped down from the stand on June 13, after three days as a witness in the MacArthur hearings, he left both Senators and impartial observers more confused than convinced.

Wedemeyer testified that our military venture in Korea was a mistake from the very beginning, that we were attempting to fill up a bottomless pit with the flower of American manhood and exhausting our strength for the ultimate showdown with the real enemy, the Soviet Union. The best solution to the crisis confronting us, said the General, was to withdraw from Korea. The next best was to go along with General MacArthur and extend the war into Manchuria. Though he persistently maintained that we could never hope to defeat the Communist hordes on the ground, he was willing to risk a general war in Asia. He disagreed with the Korean strategy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff but declared that he had "explicit confidence in their integrity and in their loyalty to country and principles." Congress, he concluded, *should put its faith in the Chiefs.*

Despite the confusion that Wedemeyer's testimony must have generated within the anti-Administration ranks, they had to admit that he testified with complete honesty and candor. For once they could say they had a witness with no axe to grind. He repeated several times that he had been wrong in the past and that he could be "so wrong" again.

More important to the interests of national unity, he condemned the practice of baselessly accusing State Department officials of disloyalty. He defended certain career men of the Department who had served with him in China, including John S. Service, who figured in the *Amerasia* case and who has been a pet target of Senator McCarthy. "Disloyalty," he said, "is a terrific accusation to make against a fellow American."

The General's statement had no effect on the incorrigible Senator. On June 14 he held the Senate floor for three hours, during which he was able to read only part of his prepared 60,000-word speech accusing Secretaries Acheson and Marshall of engaging in a plot to weaken the United States for its conquest by the Soviet Union. The whole thing, declared McCarthy, was "a conspiracy so immense, an infamy so black, as to dwarf any in the previous history of man."

As Rev. Laurence J. McGinley, S.J., president of Fordham University, pointed out in his June 12 commencement address, the great debate in which we are engaged "would be the sign of a healthy democracy, were it not founded on such terrible distrust. It is time for mutual recriminations to come to an end."

Political criticism should be restricted to observable conduct, without questioning anything so unobservable as personal motives. It is most dangerous, unfair and unjust to impute unpatriotic motives to a person of the standing of Secretary Marshall. Those who engage in such tactics give grounds for questioning their own character.

VINCENT S. KEARNEY

## LATIN AMERICA: PANAMA

It requires either a revolution or a national disaster to draw U. S. public attention to Latin-American affairs these days. Thus, when eighteen persons were killed and almost two hundred wounded in Panama last month, it made headlines up here. The fracas has been described as the worst disorder the little country has ever seen.

As the dust settles and the scene becomes clearer, it reveals the former President, Arnulfo Arias, impeached, jailed and facing possible charges of murder. When he tried to switch constitutions to get greater powers and to extend his term of office, he was forcibly taken from the Presidential residence in a violent battle between his own secret police and the National Police under Colonel José Remón. The latter, acting with the authority of the Supreme Court and the National Assembly, and with the acclaim of the populace, arranged to induct the Vice-President, Alcibiades Arosmena, as President pending elections next year.

Significantly, anti-United States feeling has little part in the present dispute. The Panamanians feel secure in the treaty of 1936 with the United States, which marked the abdication of our right to intervene in the affairs of Panama to maintain the security of the Canal. It was welcome evidence to the people of Panama of the reality of the new U. S. policy in Latin America, dating from the late 'twenties, abandoning unilateral action in favor of collective security. Unfortunately, in 1947 our brass-hat diplomacy and its crudely presented demands so alienated public opinion that Panama's National Assembly refused to renew leases on some fourteen air bases desired for the defense of the Canal.

Since the arrival of the U. S. Foreign Service career man Monnett B. Davis to become ambassador in 1948 (he was transferred to Israel last January), much of the ill will has been toned down. There were longstanding grievances on the part of Panamanians who work in the U. S.-governed Canal Zone. Jim Crowism in the Zone, a policy of segregation extending from pay scales and schools to drinking fountains and washrooms, long embittered these people and gave abundant propaganda material to Communists and extreme nationalists. These conditions have now, thanks to Ambassador Davis and his staff, been somewhat ameliorated. As a result, students and professors of the National University, always politically sensitive, have notably curtailed their denunciations of the United States. Fine hospitality was shown this writer last summer when he lectured there before an audience of students and faculty.

In view of recent reports on the vulnerable condition of the Canal, particularly its weakness against sabotage, it is imperative that amicable relations and close cooperation be maintained with Panama. The present use of the Canal for shipment of Korean war supplies merely underlines this need. It is gratifying that during the recent upheaval both sides expressed the desire for such cooperation.

PAUL S. LIETZ



## WASHINGTON FRONT

The inhabitants of Washington are beginning to feel sorry for themselves again as they stand by and helplessly watch their city affairs being debated and passed on by the Senate District Committee (the town's real ruling body) and the Senate itself. It was recently estimated by that Committee's counsel that so far this session Senators have passed 1,000 hours considering Washington's affairs. Some of these matters he listed as weed removal, elimination of the starlings, the size of rockfish allowed to be sold here and similar trivialities. He called it an "affront to the dignity of the Senate."

Most of the city measures are passed under the rule of unanimous consent; one objection by a Senator may kill an important bill. Some of the members of the District Committee are men with past administrative experience and a sincere interest in the city's welfare, such as Senator Pastore of Rhode Island. But in the great press of national and international issues, even they have little time to devote to running the affairs of a city of nearly a million inhabitants. Meanwhile, a "home-rule" bill of sorts is locked up in the District Committee and bids fair to remain there a long time, mostly due to Southerners' fear of the Negro vote in Washington.

An instance of what results from this stupid mismanagement of the nation's capital can be seen in the School Board, which is so badly at loggerheads within itself that its business is all but deadlocked. This board is appointed by the District Judges, themselves Presidential appointees, with the consent of the Senate. A new board is clearly needed, but the judges are taking their time about it.

Another instance recently come to public notice is the Receiving Home, where young delinquents are kept pending their day in Juvenile Court. It was revealed that one boy had been kept waiting there 116 days, without employment, recreation or schooling; and others up to 60 and 70 days. Until recently, orphans and other innocent dependents were kept at the Home indiscriminately with the delinquents. The Juvenile Court itself (one judge) is at odds with all the city's social agencies, which have threatened to boycott it, because of its excessively rigid legalistic procedure. The Court's Advisory Committee, headed by G. Howland Shaw, recently resigned in a body.

Several careful studies of the city's government, one by the Brookings Institution, have been made and have been laid before the Senate. All of these agree that the city's ills will not be cured until it is given self-government and an administration really interested in its welfare. One would think that the Senators, most of whom live here (at least from Tuesdays to Fridays), would have some civic pride. **WILFRID PARSONS**

## UNDERSCORINGS

In order to promote a fitting observance of this year's July 4, the 175th anniversary of American independence, a national group known as the Committee to Proclaim Liberty has been formed in Los Angeles, reports Religious News Service, June 12. Including in its membership prominent Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen, it aims to stress a spiritual emphasis in the celebration of Independence Day. Most Rev. Eugene J. McGuinness, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, is one of the Catholic members. Its theme is: "It's time for all Americans to thank God for their freedom."

► Robert S. Allen, Washington columnist, notes in his June 18 column in the *New York Post* that Georgetown Hospital, run by Georgetown University, is the only hospital in the city of Washington that employs Negro nurses. Other Washington hospitals, which do not employ Negro nurses, have shut down beds for want of nurses . . . Nazareth College, Louisville, Ky., conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, graduated two Negro girls on June 5, the first colored students to be graduated from a "white" college in that State since 1904 (Cf. *AM.* 5/6/50, p. 133) . . . For the first time St. Louis University graduated Negroes as doctors of philosophy when Albert C. Stewart and James H. Kirk received that degree June 5. The University has admitted Negro students since 1944.

► Anti-Christian discrimination in administering relief to the depressed classes in the States of Travancore-Cochin and Madras, India, has been abandoned, reports NC News Service for June 14. On June 15 it reported that Travancore-Cochin is partly withdrawing its legislation against private schools, which was denounced by Rev. Jerome D'Souza, S.J., in the Parliament at New Delhi (*AM.* 6/23, p. 302). Teachers no longer have to be hired exclusively from a State-approved list. The State's demand that 80 per cent of tuition received be turned over to it in return for the payment of teacher's salaries still stands.

► More than two-thirds of all voluntary relief goods donated for Korea has been given by U. S. Catholics through War Relief Services-NCWC, notes NC News Service, June 14. Of donations totaling \$3,803,963 in value (as of May 31), \$2,638,087 worth had come through WRS-NCWC.

► *The Key to Peace* by Dean Clarence Manion (*AM.* 3/24, pp. 728-9) has received a very unfavorable review in *Ave Maria*, highly respected weekly published by the Holy Cross Fathers at Notre Dame, Ind. In the April 18 issue, which has just come to our notice, Rev. Charles C. Miltner, C.S.C., writer, former professor of ethics at Notre Dame and now dean at the University of Portland, says the author should have "availed himself of better informed advisers before committing the volume [described as "eight brief and impassioned discourses on diverse subjects"] to print." **C. K.**



## France must still decide

From the point of view of this Review, the only nice thing about French elections is that they are held on Sunday. This gives us a couple of days to *try* to figure out what French voters—about 80 percent of the 24.6 million, including women, eligible to vote—accomplished on June 17.

1. They not only cut down the number of Communist deputies from 183 to a little over 100 but pulled some 400,000 popular votes away from the Communist party. This was the first time the French CP had ever lost ground in a national election. Stalin's star has begun to wane in France. About 5 million French voters cast their ballots for Communist candidates, however, so the CP still has the largest popular following of any French party.

2. The voters rebuffed Gen. Charles de Gaulle's bid for power by electing only 117 RPF deputies to the National Assembly. At the same time, de Gaullists polled over 4 million votes to elect the largest number of deputies belonging to any single party (the CP ran second) and to ring up the second-largest popular poll, trailing only the Communists.

3. The new election law (Am. 6/2, p. 244) did handsomely the job for which it had been devised. It stepped down to under 220 the number of deputies chosen by the huge popular vote of 9 million cast by the CP and RPF combined. On the other hand, it stepped up the number elected by the "Third Force" parties whose shaky coalition Government had barely succeeded in putting the new election law through—precisely to facilitate the victory of coalition candidates. As a result, the Socialists, Popular Republicans and Radical Socialists managed to squeeze 285 victors through the polls on less than 7 million popular votes. This total still falls considerably short of a majority of the 625 deputies picked on June 17. In order to patch together a governing majority, the "Third Force" will therefore have to recruit over 30 deputies from rightist parties. Most of these would have to come from the new "Fourth Force" parties, since the de Gaullists have hitherto shunned coalitions.

4. The "Fourth Force" consists of Conservatives, Independents and Peasants, combined with small parties normally regarded as moderate. On June 12 Edouard Daladier, very anti-Communist pre-war Premier, had announced that this new coalition, capitalizing on an electoral system which was tailored to help the centrist coalition, would win 200 seats. It won about half that many by polling over 2 million popular votes. The "Fourth Force" can make or break the centrists, depending on whether or not they close ranks and withhold the support the old alliance needs to keep going.

5. The movement of French public opinion was therefore away from the Communists and centrists towards the right, with both the "Fourth Force" and the de Gaullists cashing in on the shift. The Popular Republicans (Christian democrats) had both their 1946

## EDITORIALS

popular vote of 5 million and their 173 deputies more than cut in half. The Socialists lost 700,000 of their 3.4 million popular vote but gained a handful of deputies. The conservative Radical Socialists, allied with ex-Premier René Pleven's UDSR, lost 200,000 votes but gained 40 deputies, thus preventing the total collapse of the centrist coalition.

Premier Henri Queuille may try to stretch his coalition to include deputies ranging from Marxist Socialists to the newly strengthened moderates and conservative non-de Gaullists. He could easily fail at either end of such a political spectrum. What de Gaulle himself intends to do, nobody seems to know. Although not a candidate in the elections, he might demand the Premiership as the price of collaboration in a coalition including the "Fourth Force"—assuming that he could hold them in line—but excluding, in all probability, the Socialists. Or he might try to stymie the "Third Force" in order to bring about another national election. His showing was hardly good enough, however, to warrant such a strategy.

The French people are now divided fairly equally on no less fundamental a question than whether they want to continue to have the kind of parliamentary system they have experienced under the Fourth Republic. That is the question deputies of the "Fourth Force" must answer by July 5. This is really an internal question. As for wanting to ally themselves with Soviet Russia, the French people have long since renounced the idea. For a number of reasons, however, the French have not quite unified themselves on foreign policy, though "neutralism" got nowhere.

Domestic issues played a big part in the French national elections of June 17. The "Third Force" came forward with no positive program to satisfy the popular demand, for example, for adequate housing and a more equitable distribution of the burdens of rearmament. In the earlier Italian municipal elections, the "Popular Front" (Communists and left-wing Socialists) capitalized on the crying need for social reforms, especially land reform. When the issue was mainly whether Italy would ally herself with the East or the West, as in the 1948 national balloting, Italians gave the Christian Democrats 49 per cent of the popular vote, and the far Left only 31 per cent.

This year the Christian Democrats fell to 37.3 per cent, whereas the Marxists rose to 36.9 per cent, of the popular vote. The latter still fell somewhat short of their 1946 high, but the lesson is obvious. Communism cannot be defeated unless anti-Communists deliver on badly needed social reforms.

## Speak up, Mr. Citizen!

When the President faced a battery of microphones and television cameras the night of June 14, Congress was in no mood to write the kind of defense production law the White House asked for way back on April 26 (AM. 5/12, pp. 155-6). Neither was it disposed, in response to a vigorous request from Charles E. Wilson, mobilization czar, to extend and toughen the Housing and Renting Act of 1947 (AM. 6/16, p. 286). So far as we can see, Mr. Truman might just as well have spent the evening reading his favorite history books or planning a week-end cruise. Capitol Hill reaction to his deadly serious, down-to-earth speech was very, very chilly.

Whatever doubts existed before, it is painfully clear now that the 82nd Congress, dominated on most domestic issues by an informal coalition of Taft-Wherry-Martin Republicans and Southern Democrats, will not come honestly to grips with the menace of inflation unless an aroused citizenry makes its influence strongly felt and takes the play away from self-interest pressure groups. Most Senators and Representatives appreciate the timeliness and justice of Bernard Baruch's recent advice to Michigan's freshman Senator, Blair Moody: "You know well enough what to do. Damn the political torpedoes, go ahead." But the run-of-the-mill politician doesn't damn political torpedoes. For the most part, short of an all-out war, he doesn't let them come within a country mile of his craft.

No slouch as a politician himself, Mr. Truman knows this better than most people. That is why he went to the people over the heads of Congress on June 14. He is betting that once the people appreciate the imminence of another wave of inflation, they will accept the necessity for strict controls and light a fire under their dawdling, lobby-conscious representatives in Washington. He is even convinced that a majority of the rank-and-file members of the farm and business groups opposed to effective wage and price controls are out of sympathy with what their spokesmen have been up to. He is not at all convinced that the National Association of Manufacturers is the authentic voice of business, or that the American Farm Bureau Federation is the authentic voice of agriculture. And he is certain that when John L. Lewis and William Hutcheson oppose controls, they are not speaking for the coal miners and carpenters of the country.

We think the President is right. On the basis of his radio address, we think he is right all along the line. The danger of a big inflationary bulge this fall or early next year is real. Despite the current lull on the price front, the people can be made to see this danger, and once they see it will accept whatever curbs are needed to ward off a catastrophe. Most of them still remember acutely what happened in 1946 when OPA controls, at the insistence of the very groups which are warring on controls now, were prematurely removed. Many of them haven't yet recovered from the resultant price binge. That goes for farmers and businessmen, too, who have discovered that selling prices do not rise alone.

They are accompanied by rises in costs, including the cost of labor, and frequently the most tangible result of an inflationary rat-race between wages and prices is a bad case of ulcers.

Now that the President has gone to the people, it is important for all of us to understand what the issue really is. First of all, it is not a question of all controls or none. Everybody agrees on the need for credit controls, for higher taxes, for a system of priorities and allocations. Despite all the farm and business lobbies in Washington, it is not even a question of either continuing wage and price and rent controls or doing away with them. Even Mr. Taft agrees that they must be continued on a temporary basis. The real question is whether or not present controls are going to be tightened up, extended and given a good set of teeth. That's what the fight is over. That's the issue which we, the people, must decide. If you agree that a well-rounded program of controls, including wage, price and rent controls, is needed to keep inflation in check, let your Senators and Congressman know where you stand. And do it now.

## Deferring the ignorant

Many publicists have heaped scorn on the provisions in the new draft law allowing deferment of college students. They object to the whole idea of letting the "brighter" students finish their college courses, even in medicine, dentistry, engineering and the natural sciences. This is alleged to be a violation of the principle of "equality of sacrifice." It is "class legislation": young men with academic ability and enough money to attend college are exempted, while the "dumb" and poor will have to expose their lives to danger so that the "clever" and better-off may pursue their studies in the "privileged sanctuary" of college campuses.

As far as economic competence is concerned, ways ought to be found to help capable students to become doctors, engineers and scientists, even though they lack funds themselves. On the other hand, "equality" does not require a penalty on parents and students who are able to afford a college education. If they have achieved a certain financial competence through a combination of hard work, thrift and ability, then a national policy giving some recognition to these social virtues should not be stigmatized as "class legislation."

Indeed, the spokesmen for "equality of sacrifice"—oddly enough, they include economic conservatives—seem to be indulging in excessive class-consciousness themselves by making a social vice out of what ought to be encouraged as a social virtue. The slurs cast on parents who can afford to send their sons to college strikes at the heart of family solidarity and at the natural, laudable incentives which prompt parents to work hard and save.

Wherever it can be done without provable injustice to others, the nation ought to reward families which assume responsibility for seeing their sons through college, often at heavy sacrifices to parents and children.

Have we reached a point where parents have to apologize for budgeting income and expenditure so as to give priority to their children's higher education?

The deferment of competent college students is a sound and necessary national policy. The nation needs doctors, engineers and men of science. But it needs more than that. The real danger is that of deferring students who are knowledgeable in narrow areas of learning but woefully ignorant of the world at large.

A professor at a large urban engineering college recently submitted forty-eight sophomores to a spot quiz on world events. Only six knew what "Islam" meant. Only twenty-two could give a tolerable definition of "ideological war." Only two were able to identify "NATO." Only one identified "UNESCO." Worst of all, only one knew what "Point Four" refers to, even though it falls to a large extent into the field of engineering.

If students of history, the social sciences and the humanities in general must fight in place of doctors and engineers, then the latter ought to be brought up to scratch on the facts of life on a world scale. Isn't it outlandish to defer students so ignorant that they really don't understand, in an adult way, why they are being deferred in the first place? Unless the technical training of deferred students is broadened to include the perspectives of contemporary citizenship, we run the danger of deferring men who will be, in the deeper sense of the term, uneducated.

## *Toward a Japanese peace treaty*

John Foster Dulles' latest mission in the interests of a speedy Japanese peace treaty has been crowned with success. On June 14 the United States Embassy in London and the British Foreign Office issued a joint communiqué. The talks of the U. S. Ambassador-at-Large with Foreign Secretary Herbert Morrison had resulted in "full agreement between them on the draft treaty and on all other main problems outstanding."

Aside from the question of Chinese participation in the final settlement with Japan, several fundamental differences had divided Great Britain and the United States up to a week before Dulles' visit to London. The British wanted a share in Japan's gold. They wanted to restrict her sovereignty over foreign and economic policies and rearmament. Dulles reportedly yielded to none of these demands. He convinced Britain (as he had convinced France but a few days before) of the necessity of a peace of reconciliation calculated to turn Japan into a Far Eastern ally.

The communiqué was couched in rather vague and general terms. There was no indication how the Anglo-American deadlock over Chinese participation in the treaty signing was broken. Since Britain recognizes the Communist Government of China she had insisted that the Peiping regime sign for China. Whatever was agreed to, however, the unofficial report has it that

Dulles never deviated from his premise that Japan should decide which Chinese regime should sign. It is within the realm of probability that both the Communist and the Nationalist Governments will find their signatures on the treaty side by side, provided they agree to its terms. That isn't very likely, of course.

The full Anglo-American accord goes a long way toward solving one of the basic problems of the Far East, the re-creation of a balance of power in the Orient. Before the war Japan balanced Russian power, and China to a certain extent balanced both. Since World War II, because of the defeat of Japan and the defection of China to the Soviet bloc, a power vacuum has been created in the Pacific. Russia is now the great land power and China her dutiful ally. Japan must once again be built up to offset Soviet might just as Germany must be built up in Europe. But it must be done in such a way as not to alarm our Pacific allies.

To both Britain and France Dulles proposed, according to unofficial reports, the creation of a completely independent Tokyo Government. With its own land army it will play an important role in a system of collective-security pacts in the Pacific. For the present, three such accords are envisaged by the United States. The first will consist in a bilateral agreement between the United States and Japan; the second, a similar arrangement between the United States and the Philippine Republic; and the third, a trilateral agreement between the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Since Britain (by reason of the Commonwealth) and France, (by reason of the French Union), have interests in the Pacific, they are eventually expected to join.

With such agreements in view, one of the major stumbling blocks to the speedy drafting and signing of a treaty is overcome—the fear of a rearmad Japan. Mr. Dulles stressed at London and Paris that there were other questions concerning the Far East that would have to lie in abeyance until the signing of a treaty with Japan. The problems of what regime is the legal government of China and what eventually should be done about Formosa will not be allowed to intrude themselves into the final settlement. The Allied Powers will force Japan to relinquish the remnants of her overseas empire claimed by China, but the disposition of such territory will have to wait. The status of Formosa will not be a subject of discussion between Japan and whichever Chinese regime she chooses to deal with.

Mr. Dulles has therefore succeeded in convincing the British that touchy questions, which have long threatened to disrupt Anglo-American unity in the Far East, are not germane to the Japanese peace problem. He had persuaded the British that the question of Japanese security could safely be handled in the context of collective-security pacts in the Pacific. The treaty itself will deal with Japanese armed strength, reparations (if any) and commercial and industrial clauses. Ratification by the respective governments still must come and may prove to be a sticky business, but Mr. Dulles can justifiably consider his accomplishments to date as a personal diplomatic triumph.



# Oil and turmoil

Andrew Boyle

NOT THE LEAST fascinating sidelight of the unsettled oil dispute in Persia is the apparent diplomatic difference of opinion between the American and British Ambassadors to that country. When Henry F. Grady, the U. S. envoy, in his role of unofficial mediator-on-the-spot, suggested to Sir Francis Shepherd, the British Ambassador, that a gesture from the British side in the form of an advance of oil royalties might "sweeten" the atmosphere, he received this indirect but tart reply: "As far as gestures go, it is about time we had one from the Persian side." Opinion in Britain wholeheartedly echoed and approved that nervously defiant comment by its Ambassador, just as the articulate section of Persian opinion no doubt endorsed the sentiment voiced by the American. (In the actual event, an offer by Britain of 10 million pounds in advance royalties was rejected by the Persian Government on June 19.)

The British public is by now accustomed to seeing its official representatives snubbed, maligned and humiliated in lands newly gripped by the violent force of nationalism. The American public, being less experienced in this doleful particular, may be inclined to attach too much importance to the intervention of Dr. Grady or even to the prestige he commands in Persian eyes. The sad truth is that both the American and British Ambassadors in Teheran know they are absolutely powerless. They are simply talking, arranging meetings, and talking again to win time for their Governments. They are dealing with a group of politicians who, by Western standards, are quite irresponsible. They must try to humor these politicians, calm them and persuade them to do nothing rash. For what Britain is up against in Persia is not only nationalism allied with terrorism, but a brand of Moslem fanaticism which, Samson-like, would destroy Persia with its oilfields rather than give way on an imagined point of principle.

The constitutional ideas of statesmen and voters in Britain have changed a good deal since Mr. Churchill said of the Anglo-Iranian oilfield nearly forty years ago: "Its development will make the Persian Government strong and the tribesmen tame. How else is the country to progress, except by the development of its resources and the gradual civilization of distant peoples?" There was a high proportion of truth in Mr. Churchill's justification before Parliament of his action in investing \$6 million in Persian oil. Not many years later, a further \$9 million was invested in the wells which the English prospector D'Arcy had drilled—with most of his available capital—in the early years of this century. This made the British Government the principal shareholder in a moderately prom-

Mr. Boyle, educated in Scotland and France, served in British Military Intelligence during the war, and later was on Field Marshal Auchinleck's press staff. He is an associate editor of the BBC's "Radio News Reel." Here he presents a view of the Anglo-Iranian oil dispute as seen from London.

ising concern which today is worth nearly \$750 million. D'Arcy's original concession enabled him to "search for, obtain, exploit, develop, render suitable for trade, carry away and sell natural gas, petroleum, asphalt and ozocerite throughout the whole extent of the Persian Empire." It goes without saying that neither Mr. Attlee nor Mr. Churchill is prepared to sit idly by while that concession is torn to shreds.

British opinion on the dispute is remarkably unified. It is not merely a matter of saving from outright expropriation a huge strategic asset and an important overseas investment. It is also a matter of forestalling anarchy in a backward land on Soviet Russia's doorstep, where a well-organized, underground Communist party is ready to seize control. And what happens in Persia today, if events are passively permitted to take their course, can happen tomorrow in other parts of the Middle East where American as well as British oil concessions are directly involved.

That is the nodal issue which a proverbially uninterested British public has suddenly grasped. And that is why, suddenly, the oilfields of Masjid-i-Sulaiman, of Agha Jari, of Gach Saran and of Haft Kel have become keypoints on the map—as vital in their way as front-line towns in Korea.

A cool look at the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's balance sheet will explain why a hard-pressed Persian Government, vacillating between terror of gunmen in the shadows and a natural desire to lay hold of a goose that lays such magnificent golden eggs, has so far refused to consider the consequences of unilateral action. Thirty million tons of oil a year are pumped out of Anglo-Iranian wells. At a moderate valuation its installations, buildings and land are worth \$250 million. Experts are currently quoting a figure of \$750 million for the firm's total assets, though its tanker fleet of 160 ships would raise that price much higher now. (*Petroleum Times*, N. Y., for May 18, 1951 gives AIOC's net profits for 1949-50 as about \$51 million. Ed.)

Britain is not the only country dependent on Persia's "liquid gold." While 50 per cent of the fuel oil consumed in this country, 20 per cent of our motor spirit and 35 per cent of our kerosene come from Abadan, the needs of British Commonwealth nations are largely supplied from there as well. Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and the colonial territories of Africa have not yet found any alternative source of supply. Even if demand shifted, from necessity, to other Middle East oilfields, there is no refinery as big as Abadan (the largest in the world) to keep the "liquid gold" flowing.

It is easy to understand why Persia's politicians, undistinguished for integrity, responsibility or vision,

should have been tempted by so glittering a prize. There is a miserably poor land. Effective power is in the hands of an aristocracy of merchants and landowners whose single-minded aim is to maintain their grip by distracting attention from domestic issues, placating the rabble-rousers, whipping up xenophobia, and allowing themselves to drift on the gathering tide of nationalist hysteria. This is not mere British propaganda. Any impartial observer can verify the facts for himself. The argument that the spoils of the Anglo-Iranian oilfields would be used to "change all that" is singularly ludicrous in view of the continued poverty and low living conditions of most Persians. Not a cent of the oil royalties paid out in the past to the Government of Persia at an average rate of \$25 million per annum has been spent on directly alleviating the unnecessary misery of ordinary people. Whatever Dr. Mossadegh's brief may be, it is not a brief for raising the standard of living in Persia at the expense of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

What of the nationalization project itself? Is it workable? Is it justifiable on any grounds? One curious point about it is its remarkable resemblance to the "plan" put forward by the underground Tudeh (Communist) party, though neither formula deserves to be dignified by the name "plan." What both amount to is a general resolution urging the taking over of Anglo-Iranian oil interests without bothering to specify exactly how this formidable undertaking is to be executed. Prime Minister Mossadegh, a wealthy landowner who typifies the blatant irresponsibility of his class, has set up an Oil Commission. Beyond that he has done and suggested nothing. Believing that the initiative is still his, he is waiting for Britain or the United States or the oil company, or all three, to make practical suggestions, meanwhile reserving the right to decide what is practicable and what is not.

It would be a slightly droll situation were it not fraught with such real peril for the West and for Persia itself. Without British or American technicians, the oilfields could not be worked—and it is now reasonably clear that no offers will be made to or by American technicians. Dr. Mossadegh may be an extraordinarily obstinate man, but he is probably not so obtuse as to throw the British out only to invite the Russians in. While he is perfectly prepared to move in line with the Tudeh party towards the immediate objective of nationalization, he has lived long enough to realize that the Soviet Union would prove a much tougher customer to deal with than the British. He also realizes that any attempt to implement his as yet unwritten nationalization scheme by relying

wholly on Persian technicians, and by trying to sell oil to the world without a marketing organization and without a tanker fleet to carry it, might induce the Soviet Union (uninvited) to intervene on behalf of "humanity," to "save" the industry from destruction and rescue the Persian people from their "oppressors," native and foreign.

These are a few of the distinct possibilities that may face the Persian Government if it browbeats the British Government into surrender. Fortunately, however, there is little chance that Mr. Attlee and his colleagues will tamely submit to duress, or that their fellow-citizens would tolerate it if they did.

That is why the dispatch of paratroops to the Middle East is generally understood and approved in Britain. Negotiations are impossible with a Government which first fans popular unrest and then is forced to adopt as policy the wild slogans of mobs. Until political passions subside, the protection of British life and property is regarded as a matter of duty. From the legal-moral standpoint, the oilfields remain British until 1999 or until the present agreement is freely and honorably terminated. For the time being, Dr. Mossadegh is a voluntary prisoner in Teheran, afraid to leave the Parliament building lest he should die at the hands of a gunman. The

extreme politician could not keep pace, it seems, with the vehement Right-Wing Moslem faction which helped to push him into office. But though the fanatics of the Far Right are momentarily in control, the ultimate danger is from the Left.

The Tudeh party is strong and well-disciplined, and incorruptible so far as its fixed aims are concerned. It is biding its time. Should something go drastically wrong—if, for example, Dr. Mossadegh attempted to seize the oilfields by force and British troops resisted—then the signal for a Communist coup might indeed be given. It should not be forgotten that there is a convenient Mutual Assistance Treaty between Persia and Russia, dating back thirty years, which could readily be invoked by the Soviets in such an emergency.

In the long run only Stalin will genuinely benefit from any emergency settlement which virtually makes the Anglo-Iranian oilfields his pawn. It may not be a comforting prospect; but it is this strategic aspect of a tangled problem which alone should form the basis of intelligent Anglo-American thinking and planning. Much more than mere national prestige or British economic interests is involved. The stability of Persia, the security of its Middle Eastern neighbors and the peace of the world depend on how the West as a whole responds to this unusual challenge.



# The end of HOLC

*Benjamin L. Masse*

THE NEW YORK PRESS, with few exceptions, scarcely gave the ceremony a tumble. In its defense one must concede that the ceremony was very simple—a few officials gathered to lock a door and hang out a sign “Office Closed.” The event it heralded could hardly compare, newswise, with the MacArthur hearings, or even with the price war in Herald Square.

Nevertheless, the demise of the Home Owners Loan Corporation, which the ceremony celebrated, was worth a few sticks of anybody's type. On the score of age alone, which is still not without honor in this country, the event was notable. At its dissolution HOLC was the oldest existing New Deal agency, having been established eighteen years ago, on June 13, 1933. The event was notable, too, because among the many agencies spawned in Washington these past two decades HOLC was one of the few which didn't cost the taxpayers a red cent. That, at least, should have been news. Finally, HOLC was a very important agency. Born of a people's desperation and a new concept of the function of the Federal Government, it broke interesting ground. When the history of our times comes to be written, the sociologist and the moralist, the economist and the political scientist are all going to have something to say about it. Here I can only note the event and place it in its proper setting.

To recapture now the troubled atmosphere in which HOLC was born is almost impossible. We have had in this country a decade of prosperity such as the world has never dreamed of. We have produced guns for a world war and have had our butter, too. Today we live in a \$270-billion economy. Full employment, with more than sixty million at work—a figure thought visionary only a few years ago—has become commonplace. More to the point, we have built millions of new homes during the last five years for a market that seems insatiable. How re-create an atmosphere in which the scourge of unemployment, silent factories, business bankruptcies and mortgage foreclosures drove the American people to the brink of despair? Does anyone now remember the thrill of hope which went tingling across the land when a new President bravely announced that we had “nothing to fear but fear itself”?

Among the most desperate of our people in those days were a million or more home-owners who were in default on their mortgages and threatened with the loss of their homes. They were good and sober people, the kind of people who aspire to home ownership. At the cost of numberless sacrifices they had put aside enough money for the difficult down-payment on a house. Scarcely less desperate were the banks and savings and loan associations which held the almost worthless paper and didn't know what to do with it. Many of

them were only one step from bankruptcy. Then there were all the towns and cities which couldn't collect real-estate taxes and desperately needed money to pay school teachers and garbage collectors. Many of them were practically bankrupt, too.

That was the mess which HOLC was founded to clean up. Congress started it out with \$200 million in capital and authority to raise additional money by issuing bonds. Within three years the agency had taken over and refinanced 1,017,821 sour mortgages, bailing out in the process those who held the paper—the banks and savings and loan associations—to the tune of \$2.75 billion. HOLC was a businesslike but humane creditor. It gave distressed home-owners fifteen years to pay off their debt in small monthly instalments. (For about a quarter of the householders, the time limit was extended ten years following the economic recession of 1937.) It also advanced them \$485 million to clean up unpaid taxes. Finally, to protect its investment, it loaned its debtors \$225 million for necessary repairs on their houses. All told, the rescue agency spent \$3,498,900,627 on one of the greatest social and economic experiments in history. Did it pay off?

By 1936 HOLC stopped lending and started what Congress figured would be the extremely difficult business of collecting on its loans and liquidating the properties on which it had been obliged to foreclose. Fifteen years later the verdict was clear and uncontested. HOLC had proved “that the American home-owner is the world's best credit risk.” Overcome by a set of circumstances beyond his control, he asked for the help of his Government, but he wanted that help only to be able to help himself. Over 800,000 families met their payments of interest and principal, in many cases ahead of time. They kept the homes which were so dear to them, and which they came within a whisker of losing.

The agency was obliged to foreclose on only 198,196 homes. I say “only” advisedly, because 1) all the mortgages taken over were in default—bankers would call them “poor risks”—and 2) for seven long years after HOLC began to operate, the times were not propitious. Only the outbreak of World War II ended a decade of unemployment and depression. By June 30, 1946, out of more than \$3 billion loaned, only \$730 million remained unpaid.

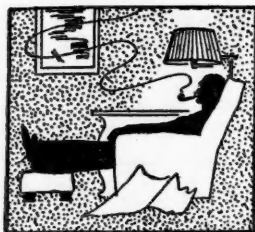
Meanwhile, what happened to the 198,000-odd houses which HOLC acquired through foreclosures?

By June, 1947, with the real-estate market stronger, it had sold all but twenty-five. On this operation it took a book loss of \$338 million.

Yet when the agency closed its doors last month, there was nothing but black ink on its books. Interest on its loans, rentals from its properties and sale of its last 200,000 mortgages to private institutions more than offset the \$338-million loss. HOLC died with a quiet conscience, aware that it had paid off its bonds, returned its original capital of \$200 million to the Treasury, and had added a check of \$14 million for good measure. On the tragedy it averted, and the happiness it gave to millions, no one can set a price.



## FEATURE "X"



*Mr. Moore, Cleveland businessman who wrote the Feature "X" on Catholics in Rotary (5/19), is a church organist and choirmaster in his spare time. Here he offers some reflections on the preaching in our Catholic churches.*

ON OUR WAY TO SUNDAY MASS in the large Mid-western city in which we live, our route takes us past a Reformed Jewish synagogue and the First Unitarian church, located diagonally across the street from each other. Both church and synagogue have outdoor bulletin boards which usually announce the subjects of the forthcoming Saturday or Sunday sermon. One recent week-end the rabbi was to hold forth on "The Cabinet Crisis in Israel," while the Unitarian pulpit was to be occupied by the national secretary of the Tool Makers Association speaking on some phase of the machine age.

In contrast to such sermons, those we hear in our parish church are almost invariably fashioned around a quotation from the epistle or gospel of the Sunday. Certainly we can have no quarrel with this source of inspiration. Occasionally, however, doubts arise as to whether our parish priests are not emulating the rabbi and the minister by trying to make their sermons interesting and entertaining rather than instructive. Catholics who attend Sunday Mass year in and year out can, in most cases, name the text for the sermon even before the priest announces it. Can we be blamed, then, if the door to our minds is only partially open, while the familiar homilies are repeated, or if we occasionally snatch "forty winks"?

We know that the eternal values are the same today as they were when Christ walked the earth; but there can be nothing wrong in applying the scriptural lessons to the moral and social issues of our times. Today's Catholics need a clear knowledge of their obligations and responsibilities in respect to contemporary problems. Without it, they will be guided solely by their inherent or acquired prejudices, or merely reflect the attitudes and beliefs of those outside the faith.

To be specific, how many Sunday sermons have been preached on the evils of the un-Christian and un-Catholic feelings exhibited towards the Jews by many of our supposedly good Catholics, educated and uneducated, laity and clergy? How many Sunday sermons have used the labor encyclicals of the Popes as a medium to inform our people of the definite duties which must be assumed by both capital and labor in our modern economy? The Gospel story of the Good Samaritan affords a fine opportunity to deal honestly with the question of race

prejudice. Such sermons are needed. It would be hard to find many Catholic families who would not move immediately if a Negro family became their next-door neighbor or even moved on the same street. And I wonder how many Catholic grammar schools in our so-called better parishes still deny entrance to Negroes.

My memory may be fallible but in all my years of attendance at Sunday Mass I can't recall ever having heard any of the above subjects discussed. The annual Labor Day Mass at the cathedral often provides a labor topic, and Holy Name lectures and occasionally missions may often touch on our relations with Jews and Negroes, but these messages usually reach small groups. The large bulk of our Catholic parishioners, who can be reached only at Sunday Mass, are never touched. In several recent gatherings of Catholic groups I have heard expressions of the most virulent anti-Semitism, of opinions which gave vent to a personal hatred and contempt of the present National Administration. I heard a businessman say that his business was being run by the Russians, and that he no longer had any control of his unionized employees. Incidentally he was not dealing with a Communist-dominated union.

The annual campaign for the diocesan weekly paper usually rates at least a passing mention in the Sunday announcements, if not a sermon. Most parishes have a rack in the vestibule which contains more or less up-to-date pamphlets and tracts. But I have never heard a Sunday sermon mention the Catholic Book Club, or suggest the *Catholic Digest* as a substitute for or supplements to the *Reader's Digest*: or *AMERICA* or *Commonweal* as an antidote to *Time* and *Newsweek*. Considering the large number of Catholics in the United States, the circulation figures for any of the above-mentioned Catholic publications are disgraceful.

Perhaps our seminaries, in broadening the training they give, may have let the art of public speaking decline. One would think that a Protestant minister or Jewish rabbi, who has not the wealth of doctrinal teaching to draw upon that a priest has, would suffer greatly when compared to the average priest in respect to sermons and their delivery. We know, of course, that the minister or rabbi has to be a good talker because the sermon is usually the central point of their religious service, whereas Catholics come to church to take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the sermon being secondary. But is not the value and beauty of the Mass enhanced by a good, well-prepared sermon in much the same way that the value and beauty of a High Mass is enhanced by a good, well-drilled choir? Too many sermons are based on a none too skillful and extemporaneous expansion of the familiar gospel story, with the many opportunities for applying the lesson of the story to modern life ignored.

The wonderful lift and thrill that a congregation receives from a really good Sunday sermon shows the great opportunity facing the priest who will give us what we really long for: a living, convinced preaching of the faith for the Catholics of today's world.

JOHN B. MOORE

# The American novel through fifty years

## XII. John Dos Passos

Herbert M. McLuhan

The reader of Dos Passos is not required to have much more reading agility than the reader of the daily press. Nor does Dos Passos make many more serious demands than a good movie. And this is said not to belittle an excellent writer who has much to offer, but to draw attention to the extreme simplification to which Dos Passos has submitted the early work of James Joyce. Because it is a fact that *Three Soldiers* (1921), *Manhattan Transfer* (1925) and *U.S.A.* (1930-36) would not exist in their present form but for the *Portrait*, *Dubliners* and *Ulysses*. It is as a slightly "super" realist that Dos Passos has viewed and adapted the work of Joyce in his own work. And since his technical debt to Joyce is so considerable, one useful way of placing the achievement of Dos Passos is to notice what he took over and, especially, what he did not take.

As a young man in Chicago and at Harvard, Dos Passos was much alive to the imagists, Sandburg, Fletcher, Pound, Amy Lowell and the French poet Cendrars. From them he learned much that has continuously affected his practice. Their romantic tapestries and static contemplation of the ornate panorama of existence have always held him in spite of his desire to be a romantic of action. The same conflict, between the man who needs to participate in the life of his time and the artist who wishes to render that life more luminous by self-effacement in his art, appears also in Whitman and in Hemingway. Hemingway's solution may prove to have been in some ways the most satisfactory, in so far as he has succeeded occasionally in holding the critical mirror up to the impulse of romantic action, and not just to the action itself.

Dos Passos has been less sure than Hemingway of his artistic direction, though more confident in his politics. But everywhere, from *One Man's Initiation* (1917) to the trilogy *U.S.A.*, he has been conscious of the need for some sort of detachment and some sort of commitment. *Three Soldiers* is a portrait of the "artist" as GI in which, as in E. E. Cummings's *The Enormous Room*, the demand of the individual for some kind of intelligibility in a merely bureaucratic order is met by savage group reprisal. That has remained the vision of Dos Passos. His people are, typically, victims of a collective trance from which they do not struggle to escape. And if his work fails, it is to the extent that he clings to an alternative dream which has little power to retract the dreamers from their sleep, and even less power to alert the reader to a sense of tragic waste.

Looking first at the technical means which he employs as a writer, there is the basic imagistic skill in

## LITERATURE AND ARTS

sharpening perception and defining a state of mind with which *Manhattan Transfer* opens:

Three gulls wheel above the broken boxes, orangerinds, spoiled cabbage heads that heave between the splintered plank walls, the green waves spume under the round bow as the ferry, skidding on the tide, crashes, gulps the broken water, slides, settles slowly into the slip.

Many passages of this wry lyricism counterpoint the episodes of the book. The episodes and characters are also features of a landscape to which these lyric chapter overtures give point and tone. The point is readily seized and the tone extends over a very narrow range of emotions: pathos, anger, disgust. But Dos Passos employs the impressionist landscape monotonously because he has never chosen to refract or analyze its components to zone a wide range of emotions. Even satire is managed by Dos Passos in a direct, lyric mode though the technique seems to be impersonal:

He's darn clever and has a lot of personality and all that sort of thing, but all he does is drink and raise Cain . . . I guess all he needs is to go to work and get a sense of values.

or:

The terrible thing about having New York go stale on you is that there's nowhere else. It's the top of the world. All we can do is go round and round in a squirrel cage.

*Manhattan Transfer* is full of such planned incongruities which achieve a weak pathos when they could more successfully have effected a robust guffaw. The author is sensitive to the ugliness and misery of things he can see. But he is never prepared to explore the interior landscape which is the waste land of the human heart. The effect is comparable to that of *The Great Gatsby*, which sustains this Hansel and Gretel sort of wistful despair to create a child-pastoral world. Out of the same situations Hemingway at his best—as in the first page of *A Farewell to Arms*—can obtain moments of tragic intensity, landscapes of muted terror which give dignity to human suffering. But Dos Passos too often seems to imply that the suffering is sordid and unnecessary or that some modification of the environment might free his characters from the doll mechanism that is their private and collective trap. Seeing nothing inevitable or meaningful in human suffering, he confronts it neither in its comic, intelligible mode, nor in a tragic way. It angers and annoys him as something extraneous.

The difference from Joyce is instructive. For in *Ulysses* the same discontinuous city landscape is also presented by imagistic devices. The episodes are musically arranged to sound concordantly. But Joyce manipulates a continuous parallel at each moment between naturalism and symbolism to render a total spectrum of outer and inner worlds. The past is present not in order to debunk Dublin, but to make Dublin representative of the human condition. The sharply-focused moment of natural perception in Joyce floods the situation with analogical awareness of the actual dimensions of human hope and despair. In *Ulysses* a brief glimpse of a lapidary at work serves to open up ageless mysteries in the relations of men and in the hidden qualities of voiceless objects. The most ordinary gesture linked to some immemorial dramatic mask or situation sets the whole world of the book reverberating and flashes intelligibility into long opaque areas of our own experience. To match Joyce's epiphanies Dos Passos brings only American know-how.

*Manhattan Transfer*, which corresponds roughly to Joyce's *Dubliners*, cuts a cross-section through a set of adult lives in New York. But the city is not envisaged as providing anything more than a phantasmagoric back-drop for their frustrations and defeats. The city is felt as alien, meaningless. Joyce, on the other hand, accepts the city as an extension of human functions, as having a human shape and eliciting the full range of human response which man cannot achieve in any other situation. Within this analogy Joyce's individuals explore their experience in the modes of action and passion, male and female. The stories are grouped according to the expanding awareness of childhood, adolescence, maturity and middle age. Man the wanderer within the labyrinthine ways at once of his psyche and of the world provides an inexhaustible matter for contemplation. Dos Passos seems to have missed this aspect of *Dubliners*. But in *U.S.A.*, while extending his backdrop from the city to the nation, he did make the attempt to relate the expanding scene to the development of one mind from childhood to maturity. That is the function of "Camera Eye." "News reel" projects the changing environment which acts upon the various characters, and corresponds to riffling the back issues of *Life* magazine.

Since criticism, if it is to be anything more than a review of the "content" of works of art, must take cognizance of the technical means by which an artist achieves his effects, it is relevant to consider some of the stages by which the kind of art found in *U.S.A.* came into existence. If there is anything to be explained about such a work it can best be done by noting the extraordinary preoccupation with landscape in eighteenth-century art. For it was the discovery of the artistic possibilities of discontinuity that gave their form to the novels of Scott as well as to the poems of Byron and Whitman.

Whitman, a great reader of Scott in his youth, later took pains to bring into his poetry as much of the contemporary technology as he could manage. Whitman's poems are also camera-eye landscapes in which human

tasks are prominent. In his numerous portraits, which he strove to bring into line with the techniques of the impressionists painting, he wove the man's work into his posture and gestures. His aim was to present the actual, and he took pride in asserting that in his *Leaves of Grass* "everything is literally photographed." As for the larger lines of his work, it is plain that he uses everywhere a cinematic montage of "still" shots.

It is not only in the details but in the spirit of much of his work that Whitman resembles Dos Passos. And it is hard to see how anyone who set himself to rendering the diverse existence of multitudes of people could dispense with the technique of discontinuous landscapes. In fact, until the technique of discontinuous juxtaposition was brought into play, it was not even possible to entertain such an ambition. "Remember," Whitman said of the *Leaves* to Dr. Bucke, "the book arose out of my life in Brooklyn and New York from 1838 to 1853, absorbing a million people, for fifteen years, with an intimacy, an eagerness, an abandon probably never equaled."

It is slightly otherwise in *U.S.A.*, where the development of political consciousness of the "Camera Eye" persona is not so much parallel with as in contrast to the unfolding landscape of the nation. And this again is close to the way in which development of Stephen Dedalus in the *Portrait* as a self-dedicated human being runs counter to the mechanisms of the Dublin scene. Dos Passos' political and social sense unfolds without comment in the "Camera Eye" sections, with "Newsreel" providing the immediate environmental pressures which are felt in different ways by everybody in the book. Both of these devices are successfully controlled to provide those limited effects which he intends. But the insights which lead to these effects are of a familiar and widely accepted kind.

That, again, in no way invalidates the insights, but it does explain the monotony and obviousness which creeps into so many pages. The reader of Dos Passos meets with excellent observation but none of the unending suggestiveness and discovery of the *Sentimental Education* or *Ulysses*. For there is neither historical nor analogical perception in *U.S.A.*, and so it fails to effect any connections with the rest of human society, past or present. There is a continuous stream of American consciousness and an awareness that there are un-American elements in the world. But as much as in any political orator there is the assumption that iniquity inside or outside the United States is always a failure to be true to the Jeffersonian dream. The point here is that this kind of single-level awareness is not possible to anybody seriously manipulating the multiple key-boards of Joyce's art.

Although Dos Passos may be held to have failed to provide an adequate intellectual insight or emotion for the vast landscape of his trilogy, his themes and attitudes are always interesting, especially in the numerous biographies of such folk heroes as Edison and the Wright brothers, Debs and La Follette, Steinmetz and Isadora Duncan, Ford and Burbank. These sections are



often masterly in their economy and point. The frustration of hopes and intentions in these public figures provides the main clue to the social criticism which underlies the presentation of dozens of nonentities. For it is usually pointed up that the great are as helplessly ensnared in merely behavioristic patterns irrelevant to their own welfare as the crowd of nobodies who admire them.

The frustration and distortion of life common to the celebrated and the obscure is, in Dos Passos, to be attributed to "the system." No diagnosis as crude as this emerges directly. But over and over again, in the contrast between humble humanity and the gormandizing power-gluttony of the stupidly arrogant few, there is implied the preference for a world of simple, unpretentious folk united in their common tasks and experience. It has often been noted that there is never love between the characters of Dos Passos. But there is the pathos of those made incapable of love by their too successful adjustment to a loveless system. Genuine pathos is the predominant and persistent note in Dos Passos, and must be considered as his personal response to the total landscape. Yet it is a pathos free from self-pity because he has objectified it in his analysis of the political and economic situation.

The homelessness of his people is, along with their individual and collective incapacity for self-criticism or detachment, the most obvious feature about them. And home is the positive though unstated and undefined dream of Dos Passos. In the American's wandering from the Jeffersonian ideal of a farmer-craftsman economy

in the direction of Hamiltonian centralism, power and bigness, Dos Passos sees the main plight of his world. Hamilton set up the false beacon that brought shipwreck. But out of that shipwreck, which he depicts, for example, as the success of Henry Ford's enterprise, we can recover the dream and create a reality worthy of it. That is an unfailing note. For those who are critically aware he prescribes the duty of selfless dedication to the improvement of the common civilization. And in three uninteresting, short novels since *U.S.A.* (*Number One*, 1943; *The State of the Nation*, 1944; *The Grand Design*, 1949) he has explored the problem of discovering a self worth giving to such a cause.

There is, perhaps, little point in dwelling on these aspects of Dos Passos in which without new insight he reflects the ordinary attitude of the great majority. Yet there is great social hope in the fact that this common intellectual ground is so large and so admirably chosen. But it is outside the province of criticism, which is concerned with the means employed and effects obtained by an artist. By the time the critic comes to the point of confronting Dos Passos the Jeffersonian radical, he has moved into a territory shared by Frank Capra.

Dos Passos may have lost his stride as an artist through the very success of those social causes which were the militant theme of *U.S.A.* To have a cause to defend against a blind or indifferent world seemed to give tone and snap to the artist in him—an artist who has since been overlaid by the reporter. But if this is the case, nobody would be happier than Dos Passos to have lost his artistry on such excellent terms.

## Humility in the field

### A SOLDIER'S STORY

By Omar N. Bradley. Holt. 618p. \$5

The account of the war experiences of a really high military commander is often necessary for an understanding of combat operations. General Bradley's book was so needed. It is far from a formal and impersonal history, like that of General Pershing. Indeed, General Bradley declares in his preface that it is in part a book of opinion, although he does not advert to the fact that the personal part bulks so large.

He speaks of the "nervy and ambitious" Collins. He displays irritation at what he calls the "harassment" he suffered from the staff officers at Supreme Headquarters. In one case he gives many pages to his discussion with Eisenhower's operations officer of the possible use of the newly captured Remagen bridgehead—a discussion ending with a limited green light directly from General Eisenhower. Of the very period when it was being stated that the First Army was his favorite, Bradley records that the First was "critical, unforgiving, and resentful of all authority but its own" and "exasperated" him.

He tells of his own occasional irrita-

tions with Montgomery, and elsewhere speaks of the way his "fondness for Montgomery ran thin" during the course of the campaign. He explains why he did not publicly exonerate Monty from the charge of advancing too slowly in Normandy: such an explanation would have given our strategy away to the Germans. He speaks fondly of General Patton, and critically, too. When it is remembered that Bradley had been Patton's subordinate in Sicily and that the situation was reversed in France, it is significant that in France they operated so successfully in their new relationship that Bradley now calls Patton "the most intelligently loyal of all my commanders."

But he has failed to mention another item of good teamwork with a subordinate. When the First Army's plan for the St. Lo breakthrough was issued as a directive, his VII Corps commander, General Collins, did not follow the formal, approved document but issued an attack order which differed in several respects from the plan. They had talked over the plan and made changes in it; but General Collins never took the trouble to "protect" himself by getting written authority for the changes. This is a far cry from the conduct of many field commanders.

## BOOKS

Each had such confidence in the other that the question of a written revision was never raised. Small wonder that, when Bradley was selected to succeed Eisenhower as Chief of Staff in Washington, it was General Collins who was selected to be his deputy and right-hand man.

There are many more similar personal items in the book. But it is the personal that is of real value in a book of this sort. At what are called "high levels," many arguments ensue, many things are decided on the basis of quick and sometimes fervid discussion, firm convictions and sharp phrases, fast thinking and rapid adjustments. They make the conduct of large-scale operations in the war just that much more human; and they illustrate not only the need for skill and background but the need for holding one's nerves in check. General Bradley recounts for us a good many instances of such policy-making.

This is far from a self-glorifying

book, for its author is modest. He is a "field soldier," as they say in the service. He says:

The well-springs of humility lie in the field. For however arduous the task of a commander, he cannot face the men who shall live or die by his orders without sensing how much easier is his task than the one he has set them to perform.

General Bradley shows, in such revealing phrases, how his mind works and how humanely considerate his basic philosophy is.

The story originally reached 600,000 words; the exigencies of publishing cut it to about 200,000. Further deletion would have been a gain—that of the unnecessary verbatim quotations of General Patton's obscene and profane language, for instance.

One passage raises questions. It is Bradley's insistence on the "wrongness" of the First Army's estimate of the enemy prior to the battle of the Ardennes. Here he quotes the noted estimate of December 10, 1944, and points to the First Army's concern with its own Roer front near Duren and its guess that the counterattack would most probably come after the Roer had been crossed.

But Gen. Bradley fails to say that the emphasis on the Roer front was only a part of the First Army's analysis, or that the First Army's final conclusions credited the Germans with the capability of "a concentrated counter-attack with air, armor, infantry and secret weapons at a selected focal point at a time of his own choosing" (and that means anywhere!). Further, the First Army remarked on December 15 that reinforcements continued to arrive between Duren and Trier, not merely on the more northerly Roer front alone. Indeed, General Bradley, in quoting the remark of the First Army on the 15th, quoted it only in part, and left out the vital words "between Duren and Trier."

Instead of using such debater's tactics, the General would have been much better advised to rest his case on its real merits: that he deliberately left the Ardennes front thin so as to exert pressure elsewhere (as all commanders do) and that he was able to do this because his 12th Army Group at the time had several highly mobile divisions out of line and free to move, with armor, to exploit successes or—as actually happened—to meet and defeat a vital hostile thrust. I fear that he is still so "exasperated" with the First Army that he fails to credit himself fully enough with the great and sound decision he made in those wintry and near-disastrous days.

ELBRIDGE COLBY

### *That none may forget*

#### **THE HISTORY OF THE CHAPLAIN CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY: VOLUME II, 1939-1949**

By Clifford Merrill Drury. Bureau of Naval Personnel. 372p. \$3

More carefully written than the first volume and better edited, dealing with contemporary events and showing the tremendous advance in the Chaplain's Corps during the second war, this factual account should be studied by all who are interested in the spiritual welfare of our men in the Naval Service.

It is significant that at the beginning of World War II, the main complaints of the chaplains were that there were no facilities for divine service ashore. Even during the war, though much was done, Congress made no all-inclusive appropriation for naval chapels as was done for the Army. It is significant also that though Our Lady of Victory Chapel was constructed at Norfolk, "the first structure to be erected on a naval installation to be reserved for Catholic services . . . the general practice of the Navy, however, is that Navy chapels are available for the use of any chaplain attached to the command."

This all adds up to the sad fact that there is seldom proper housing for the Blessed Sacrament, and very frequently the possibility for any resertation is not to be found under any circumstances.

External facilities and appurtenances have been improved. A formidable list of hymn-books, dorsals, bibles, portable altars, shows an increasing awareness of religious needs. The increase from 203 chaplains in the First War to 2,825 in the Second War is impressive.

But it is also significant that quietly, unobtrusively, on page 210, followed by an approving letter from a chaplain, is the record of the fact that Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal, as one of the first acts of his secretariate, abolished the ancient custom of the Navy, that all "Boots"—newly enlisted men in training—must attend *some* divine service.

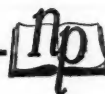
Filling many pages are the heroic exploits of individuals, and the proud, brave record of the Chaplain Corps itself. There are the accounts of Pearl Harbor; there is the fact that from the earliest days of the war no Corps in the Navy suffered such a high percentage of casualties; there is the fact that Rev. Joseph O'Callahan, S.J., was the only chaplain ever to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor; there are the long lists of purple hearts and citations for bravery. There is the record which all remember now, and

which is fittingly set down here that none, in future, may forget.

An important step in recognition of the value of the Chaplain was taken when Father Robert White was appointed to investigate Naval Justice and to prepare a number of recommendations for the conduct of court-martial. This action took into consideration, and properly, the importance of the chaplain as an objective, moral arbiter.

There are some things, of course, omitted. The serious fight against the encouragement of immoral practices receives notice only in the postwar stand of a single chaplain in Tokyo. Much had preceded this. Then too, there are occasional statements such as the one on p. 259 that among the difficulties confronted was this: "The Navy Chaplain is constantly faced with an apparent irreconcilable conflict between the Gospel of love and forgiveness and the possible necessity of using brute force . . . No person can fully resolve these inherent conflicts." Such a statement falls strangely on Catholic ears. Catholic chaplains had no difficulty in indicating the obvious solution, though it is perhaps true that most persons would have had difficulty in handling it. The Church, however, knows the solution. Perhaps in that lay our advantage.

JOHN L. BONN, S.J.



## **THE CASE OF THERESE NEUMANN**

By Hilda C. Graef

"Especially valuable because it discusses a modern story that most people . . . have taken to be almost surely supernatural . . . This book has shaken practically all my convictions, not because Miss Graef definitely proves the impossibility of the supernatural in the case, but because she so calmly, scientifically, and authoritatively throws at least some doubt on every single aspect of the Konnersreuth story . . . It is a story you should read, one that is well written, and one that you will enjoy."  
—*Msgr. Robert Peters, Peoria Register.*

"The study is a careful and conservative one and deserves respect from all who are interested in the case."  
—*Catholic Review.*

**\$2.50**

At your bookstore or from

**THE NEWMAN PRESS**  
Catholic Publishers  
Westminster, Maryland

## AMERICA'S

### Letter to a prospective inductee

(by AVERY R. DULLES, S.J.  
America, May 5, 1951)

is reprinted in handy  
pocket-size pamphlet form

Requests for thousands of copies of  
this interesting and timely America  
article have already been received.

#### Reprints are available for your needs

15 copies—\$1.00  
100 copies—\$6.00  
500 copies—\$25.00  
1,000 copies—\$40.00

#### AMERICA PRESS

70 East 45th Street  
New York 17, N. Y.

#### Away on Vacation?

Have America mailed to your vacation address. Send us the address and the length of your stay two weeks before you go.

### Index to America's ADVERTISERS

JUNE 30 ISSUE

#### PUBLISHERS

The Newman Press ..... 335

Catholic Book Club ..... 1v  
Information mag. .... 340

#### SPECIAL SERVICES

Notices ..... 340  
Will & Baumer Candle Co. .... 11

#### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Caldwell College ..... 337  
Gilmour Academy ..... 337  
Good Counsel College ..... 337  
Marymount College ..... 337  
Jesuit High School (La.) ..... 111  
Mt. St. Mary ..... 337  
Academy of Mt. St. Vincent ..... 337  
College of Mt. St. Vincent ..... 337  
Regis College ..... 337  
St. John's Preparatory School ..... 337  
College of St. Teresa ..... 337  
Sienna Heights College ..... 337  
Trinity College ..... 337

#### For economic maturity

#### THE NINETEEN FIFTIES COME FIRST

By Edwin G. Nourse. Holt. 184p. \$2

After Professor Nourse resigned as chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, he went preaching his gospel of economic maturity from one end of the country to the other. Never a man to call a spade by some other name, Dr. Nourse generally ignored the canons set down by the eminent Dale Carnegie. He thought the farmers were pursuing a greedy policy, and he said so. He thought that businessmen and labor leaders were too concerned with their short-term selfish interests, and he said so. He thought that the Administration, the Congress and the rest of us were taking an easy and precarious way out when the times demanded courage and generous self-sacrifice, and he said so. Yet, the more honestly and bluntly he talked, the better his audiences liked it.

This little book gives the substance of Dr. Nourse's exhortations. He believes whole-heartedly in the spirit and goal of the Employment Act of 1946. For our own sakes, as well as for the well-being of the family of free nations, we must aim at raising and stabilizing the level of our economic life. The chief obstacle to this goal is our lack of economic maturity, which shows itself in a tendency to pursue short-run gains—to make a "fast buck"—at the expense of the general welfare. During the postwar years, this tendency has not been sufficiently restrained. To such an extent have we permitted inflation to get out of hand that the consequences are already serious and, avers the author, may yet become disastrous. The outbreak of war in Korea both increases the danger and emphasizes the pressing need for intelligent, disciplined counteraction.

With the main lines of Dr. Nourse's thesis, this reviewer is fully in accord. Now that organized groups wield the power they do in this country, the "get-while-the-getting-is-good" philosophy, apart from its immorality, just won't work. It is bound to lead to what Dr. Nourse calls "political agrarianism" and "political laborism," and to the formation and growth of business lobbies which threaten the freedom of Congress. As it has worked out in practice, this group self-seeking has made it impossible for the Government—even if it had been so minded—to cope adequately with the inflation of the past five years. It is making it impossible now to put the defense economy on a sound basis.

Dr. Nourse is strongly opposed to Government controls in general and to Government-owned industrial capacity

in particular. On both points, it seems to me, he overstates the case. There is good reason to believe that the present controls, though anemic and belatedly invoked, have helped to take the blush off the post-Korean boom. And our experience with Government-owned plants in World War II offers little basis for the fear that once the camel pushes its nose under the tent, it will keep on coming in. Furthermore, it may be that Government-owned plant, kept in a stand-by condition, is the answer to business fears, which Dr. Nourse shares, of excess capacity built under the artificial stimulation of defense and war.

Some of Dr. Nourse's readers, who share his apprehension over the growing political role of trade unionism, will wish that he had manifested a greater appreciation of labor's peculiar status. Unlike farmers and businessmen, the laboring man does not have many representatives in Congress from his own ranks, or at least representatives who share his economic outlook on life. And unlike businessmen, there are few from the ranks of labor who can make a substantial personal contribution to political war chests. If labor is to be effective politically, it has to pool its resources and function as a group. The reviewer regrets this necessity. With Dr. Nourse he is aware of its dangers. He wishes only that industrialists would take the author's advice and stop seeking influence and favors in Washington and in the State capitals, would cultivate economic maturity and admit labor to their councils. Then it would be easier to read the riot act to union leaders and exhort them to change their political ways.

This reviewer hopes that Dr. Nourse will continue to talk, and that just about everybody will read this excellent little book.

BENJAMIN L. MASSE

#### THE AGE OF ELEGANCE

By Arthur Bryant. Harper and Brothers. 450p. \$4.50.

The English scholar, Arthur Bryant, has been hailed by many of his critics as the most readable of present-day historians. In America his best known works are *The Pageant of England*, *The Years of Endurance* and *The Years of Victory*, the latter two covering the decades from 1792 to 1812.

*The Age of Elegance* surveys the confused period from 1812 to 1822, one of the most important eras in English history. It is perhaps natural that the war and its termination is presented from the British viewpoint. The result, however, is a rather lop-sided account which tends to over-emphasize the British contribution to Napoleon's defeat even though it may tend to



neutralize some of the equally nationalistic records of Continental writers. The author, one of the first pilots in the newly founded R. A. F. during World War I, brilliantly details the strategies of Wellington and recaptures on paper the battle scenes which culminated at Waterloo.

The diplomatic problems of the post-war era are recounted in a delightfully readable style which realistically portrays the Vienna Conference table. The author's sketches of the leading figures at Vienna—Talleyrand, Castlereagh, Metternich, Czar Alexander—are little masterpieces in themselves. The latter "always seemed to have one foot in

heaven and one on earth—and Russian earth at that." The weakness of the settlement of 1814 is accurately summarized: "Instead of making provision for the ideas of the young, they (the peacemakers) assumed that these had been discredited forever by the crimes of Napoleon and the Jacobins. By refusing to compromise with the new, they made its ultimate rebellion certain."

In the second and longer part of the book, Mr. Bryant surveys the economic, social and ideological development of Britain during the seven years that followed the Napoleonic Wars. And it is here especially, in

depicting "in a single canvas the nation's wealth and splendour, its tough, racy, independent rustic and sporting life, its underlying poverty and degradation, and the clash between its ancient faith and polity and its newer needs and aspirations," that the author combines historical scholarship with a most attractive style. Keen observation and sympathetic imagination bring the details to life: the elegance of the London dandy, the sumptuous breakfast parties in pastoral mansions, the ugly factories and fever-haunted squatter-towns that heralded a new age in Britain's history.

CHARLES P. BRUDERLE

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

### Massachusetts

#### ST. JOHN'S

Preparatory School  
Danvers, Mass.

Conducted by: THE XAVIERIAN BROTHERS  
Accredited Boarding School for High School Boys  
Address  
Headmaster, Box W, for catalog

#### REGIS COLLEGE

WESTON 93, MASSACHUSETTS  
Offers B.A. and B.S. Degrees  
CURRICULA

Liberal Arts—Commerce—Home Economics  
Conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph  
Address: The Registrar

### Michigan

#### SIENA HEIGHTS COLLEGE

ADRIAN, MICHIGAN

A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR WOMEN  
Fully Accredited. Conducted by Sisters of St. Dominic. Bachelor Degrees in Arts, Science, Philosophy, Music, Home Economics, Commercial Education, Teacher Training, Dramatics, Pre-Legal and Pre-Medical Courses, Two Year Terminal Courses in Secretarial Work. Exceptional Opportunities in Art.

Beautiful Buildings

Interesting Campus Life  
For further information address the Dean

### Minnesota

#### COLLEGE OF ST. TERESA

WINONA, MINNESOTA

For the Higher Education of Catholic Women  
Holds membership in the North Central Association of Colleges. Accredited by the Association of American Universities. Registered for teachers License by New York Board of Regents. Degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing. A conservatory of Music is maintained in connection with the college. Picturesquely located on the upper Mississippi. One hundred acre campus. Served by the "Zephyr," "Hiawatha," the "400." ONLY FIVE HOURS FROM CHICAGO.

### New Jersey

#### Caldwell College

FOR WOMEN

Caldwell, New Jersey

Conducted by the Sisters of St. Dominic  
A.B. and B.S. Degrees  
Teacher and Secretarial Training

### New York

#### MOUNT SAINT MARY

on-the-Hudson

All grades through high school. State-accredited preparation for college arts or business, stressing character development and health. Small classes. Home-like personal supervision. Fireproof buildings; beautiful 42-acre campus. Illustrated catalog.

SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC

Newburgh, N. Y.

#### GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE

WHITE PLAINS

Westchester County, New York

Conducted by the Sisters of  
the Divine Compassion

FULLY ACCREDITED

Standard Course in Arts and Sciences, pre-medical, journalism, teacher training, secretarial studies, library science, fine arts. Unusually beautiful location. Extensive campus.

FORTY MINUTES FROM NEW YORK

#### COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

Mount Saint Vincent-on-Hudson  
New York 71, N. Y.

Conducted by the Sisters of Charity  
OFFERS A.B. and B.S. DEGREES

Liberal Arts, Commerce Education, Nursing, Teacher Training. Approved by the Association of American Universities. Campus bordering Hudson River.

One-half hour from Grand Central Station,  
New York City

WRITE FOR BULLETIN A

### New York

#### MARYMOUNT COLLEGE

TARRYTOWN-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK

Conducted by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Accredited Liberal Arts. Confers A.B., B.S. Degrees. Pre-medical, Secretarial, Home Economics, Art, Music, Pedagogy, Journalism, Dramatics. Directed field trips in all departments. Athletics. CITY BRANCH: 221 East 71st Street, New York, N. Y.; Quebec City, Canada; Paris and Rome. Address Secretary.

Marymount Preparatory Schools: Wilson Park, Tarrytown, N. Y.; Fifth Ave. and 84th St., New York, N. Y. Address Reverend Mother.

#### ACADEMY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

TUXEDO PARK, N. Y.

Country School for Girls  
Founded in 1847. Chartered by the Regents. Accredited by the Middle States Association. Beautifully located among the Ramapo Hills. College Preparatory and General Courses. Art, Music, Dramatics, Home Economics, Athletics, including all sports. Send for illustrated catalog A. Phone Tuxedo 280.

### Ohio

#### GILMOUR ACADEMY

Gates Mills (Cleveland) Ohio

Resident Preparatory School for Boys



Conducted by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Indiana. Fully accredited four years college preparatory course. Situated in suburban Cleveland, enjoying all the facilities afforded by the city's libraries, galleries, museums, etc. Distinctive rural-home atmosphere. 133-acre campus. Educational, cultural, and physical training programs. Major and minor sports program for every student.

Brother Theophane Schmitt, C.S.C.  
Headmaster

### Washington, D. C.

#### TRINITY COLLEGE

INCORPORATED IN 1897  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

A Catholic Institution for the Higher Education of Women

Conducted by The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. For particulars address the Secretary of the College.

## THE WORD

*"I say therefore, it is by their fruit that you will know them"* (Matt. 7: 20, VII Sunday after Pentecost).

A couple of weeks ago when the papers were full of the first arrests on narcotics charges, I remember seeing a large picture of four unfortunate young suspects. One of the four was guilty of nothing more than being in the company of the other three. He was quickly released. Yet millions of people will remember him only in connection with the nation's latest and most foul menace.

If such evidence were needed, that would be enough to prove to me that we ought to be very careful in choosing friends. Overworked clichés like "Birds of a feather flock together" and "Show me his friends and I'll tell you what he's like" indicate how commonly other people make the same judgment. And they are far from wrong. I suppose it is because a person usually tends to become as good, indifferent or bad as the people he associates with.

In this Sunday's gospel, Our Lord has some very good advice for the choosing of friends. He has been warning his disciples against false prophets. He knows how deceptive appearances can be and wants to forearm us against "men who come to you in sheep's clothing, but are ravenous wolves within" (Matt. 7: 15). So He gives us one simple standard for measuring people, one fair way to label them all with a "Yes" or a "No" as possible friends. "It is by their fruit," He says, "that you will know them."

A good person is one whose ideas and talk and deeds prove his goodness beyond question. We may think a certain person has a high character. He may have a fine appearance and charm and a deft eloquence about him. But what are the end products? What comes out of the man? If he is high-minded and clean and fair, gentle and honest in his talk, if he lives by his high-minded ideals, then he is producing goodness in his own life. So he must have it in him. He himself must be good. But if the product of his thinking and speaking and acting is evil, then the man is evil too. As Our Lord Himself says, "that worthless fruit should come from a sound tree, or good fruit from a withered tree, is impossible" (Matt. 7: 17).

If this all strikes you as a little too obvious, like beating an over-familiar and dead horse, just try this little test. Ask yourself how you happened to settle into friendship with the friends you

have. Take a careful look at your motives then. Were you always completely governed by the good products, the good fruits, of these people? Or were you sometimes attracted only by their affluence or joviality or usefulness? I think you will find some instances where you would have been better off had you used Our Lord's method of choosing rather than your own. If you can acquire the habit of choosing friends by Christ's method, all your friends will help you towards the one all-important friendship with Christ Himself.

DANIEL FOGARTY, S.J.

## FILMS

**SHOW BOAT.** That an undisputed classic among American musicals has turned up again in its third screen adaptation will no doubt make a great many nostalgic adults very happy. The task of refilming anything so widely known and loved was not without its pitfalls. Though the familiarity of the wonderful score could be counted on to bolster the picture's appeal, the equally familiar plot makes pretty sticky going by present-day standards. The producers attempted to work their way around this difficulty by playing up the music for all it is worth and burying the story as much as possible under a perfunctory treatment and a riot of Technicolor scenery. In the one noticeable departure from the original, the ill-fated Julie (Ava Gardner) makes an extra appearance in the plot, much nearer the gutter than she ever was before, and brings the hero (Howard Keel) and the heroine (Kathryn Grayson) back together again fifteen years ahead of schedule. As a result of the accent-on-music policy, the non-singing members of the

cast (such as Joe E. Brown as Cap'n Andy and Agnes Moorehead as Parthy) through no fault of their own make very little impression, while on the other end of the scale William Warfield, whose sole function in the picture is to sing "Ol' Man River" is very likely to bring down the house. In their own right dancers Gower and Marge Champion also prove to be genuine show stoppers. For the rest, the Jerome Kern melodies can still lift a handsome but far from inspired production into the class of sure-fire popular entertainment. (MGM)

**SIROCCO** is a very badly focused melodrama starring Humphrey Bogart in his old familiar trench coat. The setting is Damascus in 1925 when Syrian nationalists were waging guerrilla warfare against the French army of occupation but by extension it is obviously intended to represent any of the contemporary trouble spots in the Middle East. Against this topically significant background the picture manages to give both compassion and objectivity to its exposition of the conflict between a colonial administration and militant nationalism. Otherwise it is pretty trashy. The leading characters are a cynical American (Bogart), who is running guns to the insurgents for strictly financial motives, and a shallow adventuress (Marta Toren) who is the mistress of an otherwise high-minded French officer (Lee J. Cobb). As the story develops, the gun-runner and the lady turn out to be a thoroughly worthless pair. Unfortunately they are also stereotypes borrowed from a long procession of past films and in most of their previous incarnations they have proved to be reservoirs of latent nobility. When the waters of regeneration fail to come flooding in, the picture takes on a sordid and sterile aspect and reveals itself to be manufacturing cheap sensationalism out of a tragic and world-shaking situation. (Santana-Columbia)

**HE RAN ALL THE WAY.** The "he" of the title is a small-time hoodlum (John Garfield) who panics on his first big job and kills a policeman. Taking refuge in the crowd at a municipal swimming pool, he picks up a lonely girl (Shelley Winters). When she takes him to her home he pulls a gun and terrorizes her family into letting him hide out in their tenement apartment. The picture handles this grim situation with a good deal of honesty and suspense, but obviously it cannot have a solution. It only ends, and the conclusion—that the hoodlum brought about his own downfall because he couldn't trust anyone—does not justify the preceding anguish. (United Artists). MOIRA WALSH

H. MARSHALL McLUHAN, educated at the Universities of Edmonton and Cambridge, teaches in the English department at St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto.

REV. JOHN L. BONN, S.J., was a Navy Chaplain during World War II.

ELBRIDGE COLBY has served in the U. S. Army from 1917 to 1948, done newspaper work in Minnesota and Washington and taught in several universities, and in the Army War College.

## THEATRE

**DRAMA IN VERMONT.** This is the time of the year when show-shoppers begin their annual hegira from Broadway to the barn theatres. Those who prefer arcadian tranquillity to the hectic life of the beaches and resort towns will find northern Vermont an inviting vacation spot, and one of its attractions is the convenience of St. Michael's Playhouse in Winooski Park. Even those who are taking their ease across Lake Champlain in New York will not find Winooski too distant.

In my first year as the pilot of this column I had an idea that it would be worth while to visit a country theatre each week, and even persuaded the editor to finance the project. I quickly discovered that most of them are not easily accessible to a reviewer who has to return to town the same night. After less than half a dozen trips to Long Island, Connecticut, Rockland County and other outlying parts, I decided the results were not worth the effort.

Since my experience has been limited, I can hardly speak with authority on country theatres. To say that St. Michael's Playhouse is in every way the best of those I have seen may not be too tactful, since the statement may be taken for faint praise. It would be less invidious, and also more accurate, to say that St. Michael's is an energetic experimental theatre operated on sound principles of drama, acting and kindred arts.

This year Players Inc. will hold the stage at St. Michael's for the entire season. Beginning July 3, Players Inc. will present Sygne's *Playboy of the Western World*. This will be followed on successive Tuesdays by *Second Threshold*, *On Approval*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Old Ladies*, *See How They Run*, *The Man*, and *Pigeons and People*. This is certainly an attractive repertory, consisting of a nicely balanced variety of plays. That the acting will be at least competent is assured, since Players Inc. is Rev. Gilbert Hartke's Catholic University touring company.

Catholic University has for years been considered by some observers, including George Jean Nathan, the most efficient and enterprising college theatre in the nation. Under the direction of Father Hartke and Walter Kerr, now drama critic for *Commonweal*, Catholic University Theatre pioneered in many production-forms that have since been exploited by Broadway and Hollywood professionals. Catholic Uni-

versity has also developed numerous actors for the professional stage, while serving as a laboratory for such productions as *Lute Song* and *Sing Out, Sweet Land*.

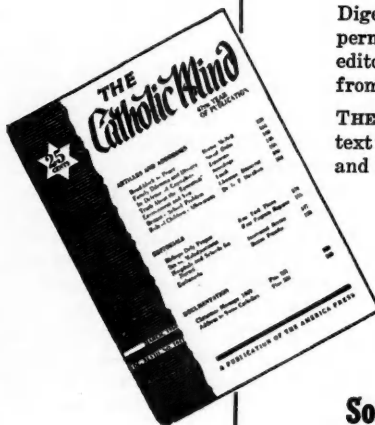
It is symptomatic of the alert and adventurous spirit at St. Michael's that Professor Henry Fairbanks, director of the drama department, has borrowed the prestige and know-how of Catholic University for the season. As John D. Donoghue, public-relations man at St. Michael's, says: "It's good for us as a Catholic college, and good for the community." It will be good for you, if you are spending the summer or any part of it near Winooski, to visit the playhouse.

Winooski is a suburb of Burlington, a quiet, friendly sort of town, with restaurants that offer efficient service and delicious food. The college can be reached in ten minutes by car or local bus. On a campus that has a rural rather than an academic atmosphere, the theatre, with a seating capacity of 500, has all the physical attributes of a theatre erected and operated to serve the esthetic needs of an agricultural community. There is no swank bar connected with St. Michael's playhouse, like the one in the Theatre Guild's layout in Westport; but that will hardly discourage those who are more interested in drama than daquiris.

THEOPHILUS LEWIS

### A Meeting of Minds —

where more of the best of Catholic readers  
find more of the best of Catholic thought



THE CATHOLIC MIND is a cumulative library of contemporary Catholic thinking.

Digest size but not a digest, it makes a permanent file of outstanding articles, editorials, speeches and pastoral letters from world-wide sources.

THE CATHOLIC MIND carries the complete text of all significant Papal statements and Encyclicals.

### Some titles in the JULY issue

Social Teaching in the Schools  
Your Non-Catholic Neighbor  
Rome and Rotary  
The Modern State (Pope Pius XII)

**Subscription: \$3.00 per year** (\$3.50 for Canada and Foreign)

*If you subscribe now, service  
will begin with the July issue*

**Single copies: 25c** at some churches and bookstores

**THE CATHOLIC MIND • 70 E. 45th STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.**



**Information**  
Subscribe *now*

1 year, only \$2.00  
2 years, \$3.50  
3 years, \$5.00

write *today* to  
403 West 59th Street  
New York 19, N. Y.

A monthly magazine published  
by the PAULIST FATHERS

**Notices**  
12 cents per word  
Payment with order

**CATHOLIC BOOKS**, greeting cards, leather bindings for bibles, missals, religious art from Italy, Oberammergau and Belgium are featured in The Guild Book Shop, 117 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y. PL. 3-0225. Catalog on request.

**CATHOLIC CATALOGUE**—1800 Catholic Authors and their 4000 Works, with Annotations. pp. 232. \$1.50. Continental Press, Utica, N. Y.

**IRISH BOOKS**, Belleek China, Linens, Celtic Crosses, Rosaries, Cards, etc. Write for Catalog. Irish Industries Depot, Inc., 876 Lexington Ave., New York 21, N. Y.

**JESUIT HOME MISSION.** My hope — a school to plant the Catholic tradition. Small contributions are precious and welcome. Rev. John Risacher, S.J., Holy Cross Mission, Durham, North Carolina.

**JESUIT MISSION.** I shall devote part of my time during 1951, my Golden Jubilee Year in the Society of Jesus, to helping the Jesuit Mission in Belize, Central America, erect a much-needed college building. To my prayers to Francis Xavier and the Little Flower, co-patrons of the missions, you may add your financial assistance. Rev. Jos. M. Kiefer, S.J., St. Ferdinand Rectory, Florissant, Mo.

**MISSIONARY PRIEST** struggling to build school; 115 Catholics in two counties of 85,000 population. Please help us! Rev. Louis R. Williamson, Hartsville, South Carolina.

**POSITION WANTED.** Woman thoroughly experienced publicity, public relations, social work desires part time position. Box H, AMERICA, 70 East 45 Street, New York 17, N. Y.

**ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION** urgently needs a small hospital. The high mortality rate among the children of the transient Mexican laborers of this country is serious. Families are poverty-stricken and without medical care. Some living conditions are deplorable. Help us to save lives by sending your donation to Rev. R. F. Gillis, St. Joseph's Mission, Route 2, Hereford, Texas.

**THE BEST WAY** to supplement pension plans, read "What you should know about investing." Box 111, Girard, Pa.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### *Justice Holmes' philosophy*

EDITOR: Congratulations on your June 16 column "The problem of Justice Holmes" (p. 283). At a banquet on June 6 of Sigma Tau Sigma, national social science honorary society, Cecil B. DeMille said:

Holmes is typical of a whole school of thought which has had widespread influence . . . I single him out because he is so outstandingly representative of all those who maintain that it is possible to build an upright society on the quicksand of a philosophy without fixed principles.

On the subject of the rights of the individual Holmes said: "Just so far as the aid of the public force is given a man he has a legal right, and this right is the same whether his claim is founded in righteousness or iniquity."

In other words, might is what makes right.

DeMille has given confirmation to a current belief that a reappraisal of the Holmesian philosophy is in order.

PHIL KOURY

Hollywood, Calif.

### *MacArthur: pro and con*

EDITOR: Does the Editor's note appended to Mrs. Joslin's letter in your Correspondence for June 16, to the effect that "by far the greater volume" of the mail you received was "pro-MacArthur," mean that your splendid and much-appreciated efforts to give your readers the best viewpoint on Korea, etc., have been wasted?

Perhaps the "pro-MacArthur" writers are not regular AMERICA readers. Or they may simply be more inclined to "make with the words" than your regulars are.

J. J. CLOONEY

Staten Island, N. Y.

### *Religion in practice*

EDITOR: I read AMERICA with great interest and think it the best Catholic current-events magazine to be had.

It is alarming that some political spokesmen have none of that humility which is the beginning of wisdom. As Walter Lippmann wrote in his June 11 column, it is "absurd" to speak dogmatically about our relations with China and the Chinese revolution.

Many Catholic spokesmen have stirred up a great alarm over communism without offering any concrete remedies other than "the practice of our religion." Our religion should be

practised whether or not communism or any other "ism" is on the horizon.

M. HEMMING

Brooklyn, N. Y.

*(If by "the practice of our religion" is meant the carrying out of the full Catholic social program, that's a pretty good offset to communism. The question is whether this is meant by all those who offer Catholicism as the answer to communism. Ed.)*

### *The Church and the Negro*

EDITOR: I am fascinated and delighted with the articles appearing as Feature "X." That of June 16, "The best colored people," repays me a hundredfold for the cost of my subscription.

I think the writer was in error, however, when he said: "I was put in the embarrassing position of having to apologize for the Church." The trouble is not with the Church but with priests and layfolk who share the general white prejudice.

If we distinguish the individual's attitude from the Church's, it will help the prospective Negro convert to appreciate the true Catholic doctrine on race prejudice.

I am one of those who can see signs pointing to a great progress of the Church among the Negroes of the South. It is there that we are beginning "to notice the Negro's faith and love of God," because the South is increasingly becoming "color blind."

EMANUEL A. ROMERO

New York, N. Y.

### *Teachers on strike*

EDITOR: While I am as faithful a reader as I find time to be of AMERICA—to me the best Catholic journal I know—I firmly protest against the implied approval of the Pawtucket school teachers' strike in your June 9 Comment (p. 263).

From several years' experience on our Cambridge School Board, during a part of which I served as its president, I am firmly convinced that school teachers should never go on strike.

No one has any more right to force school children out on the street—as has been done in Pawtucket for over a month now—than the officials of an orphanage have to suddenly eject the children in order to get higher salaries.

Teachers are missionaries. The notice they give of quitting should be that which they usually receive of dismissal—a school term.

JAMES B. VALLELY

Boston, Mass.